

**COUNCIL TAX SETTING COMMITTEE**  
26 FEBRUARY 2015

**\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**AGENDA ITEM No.**

**REVISED REPORT**

**6**

**TITLE OF REPORT: COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION 2015/16**

REPORT OF THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, POLICY & GOVERNANCE  
PORTFOLIO HOLDER: COUNCILLOR T.W. HONE

**1. SUMMARY**

1.1 To obtain approval for the council tax requirement and the overall council tax rates for the district of North Hertfordshire for 2015/16, which are now calculated following the budget and council tax resolutions of Full Council.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the following, as submitted in the 2015/2016 Estimates Book, be noted:-

a) The revenue estimates for 2015/2016.

b) The capital programme for 2015/2016.

c) The workforce salary estimates for 2015/2016.

2.2 That it be noted that at its meeting on 13 January 2015 the Council Tax Setting Committee calculated the amount 47,371.50 as its council tax base for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (the Regulations).

a) 47,371.50 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Regulations, as its council tax base for the year.

b)

<u>Parish/Town</u>	<u>Council Tax Base</u>	<u>Parish/Town</u>	<u>Council Tax Base</u>
Ashwell	819.10	Langley	81.80
Barkway	355.90	Lilley	166.00
Barley	315.00	Nuthampstead	71.00
Bygrave	126.00	Offley	545.80
Caldecote and Newnham	47.30	Pirton	532.60
Clothall	81.80	Preston	203.20
Codicote	1538.00	Radwell	53.70
Graveley	163.50	Reed	145.80
Great Ashby	2044.70	Rushden and Wallington	197.00
Hexton	64.80	St. Ippolyts	877.70
Hinxworth	153.30	St. Pauls Walden	549.30
Holwell	135.00	Sandon	230.10
Ickleford	722.10	Therfield	242.60
Kelshall	77.90	Weston	431.90
Kimpton	1012.30	Wymondley	405.60
Kings Walden	413.60	Royston	6113.50
Knebworth	1904.60		

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its council tax base for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

- c) That it be noted that at its meeting on the 12 February 2015 the Council calculated the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) as £9,853,746 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) as £10,819,798.

2.3 That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for 2015/2016 in accordance with Sections 31A, 31B and 34 to 36 of the Local Government and Finance Act 1992 (the Act):-

- a) £81,539,025 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2)(a) to (f) of the Act.
- b) £70,719,227 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) (a) to (d) of the Act.
- c) £10,819,798 Being the amount by which the aggregate at (a) above exceeds the aggregate at (b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its council tax requirement for the year.
- d) £228.40 being the amount at (c) above divided by the amount at 2.2(a) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31B(1) as the basic amount of its council tax for the year.
- e) £966,052 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- f) £208.01 being the amount at (d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (e) above by the amount at 2.2(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

g)

Parish/Town	Basic £	Parish Precept £	Total £
Ashwell	208.01	60.50	268.51
Barkway	208.01	98.28	306.29
Barley	208.01	66.86	274.87
Bygrave	208.01	40.79	248.80
Caldecote and Newnham	208.01	27.67	235.68
Clothall	208.01	21.61	229.62
Codicote	208.01	63.08	271.09
Graveley	208.01	30.80	238.81
Great Ashby	208.01	8.43	216.44

Hinxworth	208.01	66.07	274.08
Holwell	208.01	51.72	259.73
Ickleford	208.01	53.30	261.31
Kelshall	208.01	36.68	244.69
Kimpton	208.01	71.13	279.14
Kings Walden	208.01	65.48	273.49
Knebworth	208.01	69.47	277.48
Lilley	208.01	39.64	247.65
Offley	208.01	47.72	255.73
Pirton	208.01	55.84	263.85
Preston	208.01	29.63	237.64
Radwell	208.01	14.61	222.62
Reed	208.01	26.69	234.70
Rushden and Wallington	208.01	18.54	226.55
St. Ippolyts	208.01	22.31	230.32
St. Pauls Walden	208.01	67.34	275.35
Sandon	208.01	27.19	235.20
Therfield	208.01	21.31	229.32
Weston	208.01	39.00	247.01
Wyndley	208.01	58.43	266.44
Royston	208.01	42.18	250.19

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 2.3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 2.2(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

(h)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A £	B £	C £	D £	E £	F £	G £	H £
Ashwell	179.00	208.85	238.67	268.51	328.17	387.85	447.51	537.02
Baldock	138.67	161.79	184.90	208.01	254.23	300.46	346.68	416.02
Barkway	204.19	238.23	272.26	306.29	374.35	442.42	510.48	612.58
Barley	183.24	213.79	244.33	274.87	335.95	397.03	458.11	549.74
Bygrave	165.86	193.52	221.15	248.80	304.08	359.38	414.66	497.60
Caldecote and Newnham	157.11	183.31	209.49	235.68	288.05	340.43	392.79	471.36
Clothall	153.07	178.60	204.10	229.62	280.64	331.67	382.69	459.24
Codicote	180.72	210.85	240.97	271.09	331.33	391.57	451.81	542.18
Graveley	159.20	185.75	212.27	238.81	291.87	344.95	398.01	477.62
Great Ashby	144.29	168.35	192.39	216.44	264.53	312.63	360.73	432.88
Hexton	138.67	161.79	184.90	208.01	254.23	300.46	346.68	416.02
Hinxworth	182.71	213.18	243.62	274.08	334.98	395.89	456.79	548.16
Hitchin	138.67	161.79	184.90	208.01	254.23	300.46	346.68	416.02
Holwell	173.15	202.02	230.87	259.73	317.44	375.16	432.88	519.46
Ickleford	174.20	203.25	232.27	261.31	319.37	377.45	435.51	522.62
Kelshall	163.12	190.32	217.50	244.69	299.06	353.44	407.81	489.38
Kimpton	186.09	217.11	248.12	279.14	341.17	403.20	465.23	558.28
Kings Walden	182.32	212.72	243.10	273.49	334.26	395.04	455.81	546.98
Knebworth	184.98	215.82	246.65	277.48	339.14	400.80	462.46	554.96
Langley	138.67	161.79	184.90	208.01	254.23	300.46	346.68	416.02
Letchworth	138.67	161.79	184.90	208.01	254.23	300.46	346.68	416.02
Lilley	165.09	192.62	220.13	247.65	302.68	357.72	412.74	495.30
Nuthampstead	138.67	161.79	184.90	208.01	254.23	300.46	346.68	416.02
Offley	170.48	198.91	227.31	255.73	312.55	369.39	426.21	511.46
Pirton	175.89	205.22	234.53	263.85	322.48	381.12	439.74	527.70
Preston	158.42	184.84	211.23	237.64	290.44	343.26	396.06	475.28
Radwell	148.41	173.15	197.88	222.62	272.09	321.56	371.03	445.24
Reed	156.46	182.55	208.62	234.70	286.85	339.01	391.16	469.40
Royston	166.79	194.60	222.39	250.19	305.78	361.38	416.98	500.38
Rushden and Wallington	151.03	176.21	201.38	226.55	276.89	327.24	377.58	453.10
St. Ippolyts	153.54	179.14	204.73	230.32	281.50	332.68	383.86	460.64
St. Pauls Walden	183.56	214.17	244.75	275.35	336.53	397.73	458.91	550.70
Sandon	156.79	182.94	209.06	235.20	287.46	339.73	391.99	470.40

Therfield	152.87	178.37	203.84	229.32	280.27	331.24	382.19	458.64
Weston	164.67	192.12	219.56	247.01	301.90	356.79	411.68	494.02
Wymondley	177.62	207.24	236.83	266.44	325.64	384.86	444.06	532.88

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 2.3(f) and 2.3(g) above by the number which, in the proportion set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(l) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.

- 2.4 That it be noted that for 2015/2016 Hertfordshire County Council and the Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Act, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

Precepting Authority	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Hertfordshire County Council</b>	760.73	887.51	1014.30	1141.09	1394.67	1648.24	1901.82	2282.18
<b>Hertfordshire Police &amp; Crime Commissioner</b>	98.55	114.97	131.40	147.82	180.67	213.52	246.37	295.64

- 2.5 That, having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at 2.3(h) and 2.4 above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of council tax for 2015/2016 for each of the categories of dwellings shown below:-

List of parishes and tax at different bands (County, Police, District and Parish)

Parish/Town	Valuation Bands							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Ashwell	1038.28	1211.33	1384.37	1557.42	1903.51	2249.61	2595.70	3114.84
Baldock	997.95	1164.27	1330.60	1496.92	1829.57	2162.22	2494.87	2993.84
Barkway	1063.47	1240.71	1417.96	1595.20	1949.69	2304.18	2658.67	3190.40
Barley	1042.52	1216.27	1390.03	1563.78	1911.29	2258.79	2606.30	3127.56
Bygrave	1025.14	1196.00	1366.85	1537.71	1879.42	2221.14	2562.85	3075.42
Caldecote and Newnham	1016.39	1185.79	1355.19	1524.59	1863.39	2202.19	2540.98	3049.18
Clothall	1012.35	1181.08	1349.80	1518.53	1855.98	2193.43	2530.88	3037.06
Codicote	1040.00	1213.33	1386.67	1560.00	1906.67	2253.33	2600.00	3120.00
Graveley	1018.48	1188.23	1357.97	1527.72	1867.21	2206.71	2546.20	3055.44
Great Ashby	1003.57	1170.83	1338.09	1505.35	1839.87	2174.39	2508.92	3010.70
Hexton	997.95	1164.27	1330.60	1496.92	1829.57	2162.22	2494.87	2993.84
Hinxworth	1041.99	1215.66	1389.32	1562.99	1910.32	2257.65	2604.98	3125.98
Hitchin	997.95	1164.27	1330.60	1496.92	1829.57	2162.22	2494.87	2993.84
Holwell	1032.43	1204.50	1376.57	1548.64	1892.78	2236.92	2581.07	3097.28
Ickleford	1033.48	1205.73	1377.97	1550.22	1894.71	2239.21	2583.70	3100.44
Kelshall	1022.40	1192.80	1363.20	1533.60	1874.40	2215.20	2556.00	3067.20
Kimpton	1045.37	1219.59	1393.82	1568.05	1916.51	2264.96	2613.42	3136.10
Kings Walden	1041.60	1215.20	1388.80	1562.40	1909.60	2256.80	2604.00	3124.80
Knebworth	1044.26	1218.30	1392.35	1566.39	1914.48	2262.56	2610.65	3132.78
Langley	997.95	1164.27	1330.60	1496.92	1829.57	2162.22	2494.87	2993.84
Letchworth	997.95	1164.27	1330.60	1496.92	1829.57	2162.22	2494.87	2993.84
Lilley	1024.37	1195.10	1365.83	1536.56	1878.02	2219.48	2560.93	3073.12
Nuthampstead	997.95	1164.27	1330.60	1496.92	1829.57	2162.22	2494.87	2993.84
Offley	1029.76	1201.39	1373.01	1544.64	1887.89	2231.15	2574.40	3089.28
Pirton	1035.17	1207.70	1380.23	1552.76	1897.82	2242.88	2587.93	3105.52
Preston	1017.70	1187.32	1356.93	1526.55	1865.78	2205.02	2544.25	3053.10
Radwell	1007.69	1175.63	1343.58	1511.53	1847.43	2183.32	2519.22	3023.06
Reed	1015.74	1185.03	1354.32	1523.61	1862.19	2200.77	2539.35	3047.22
Royston	1026.07	1197.08	1368.09	1539.10	1881.12	2223.14	2565.17	3078.20
Rushden and Wallington	1010.31	1178.69	1347.08	1515.46	1852.23	2189.00	2525.77	3030.92
St. Ippolyts	1012.82	1181.62	1350.43	1519.23	1856.84	2194.44	2532.05	3038.46
St. Pauls Walden	1042.84	1216.65	1390.45	1564.26	1911.87	2259.49	2607.10	3128.52
Sandon	1016.07	1185.42	1354.76	1524.11	1862.80	2201.49	2540.18	3048.22

Therfield	1012.15	1180.85	1349.54	1518.23	1855.61	2193.00	2530.38	3036.46
Weston	1023.95	1194.60	1365.26	1535.92	1877.24	2218.55	2559.87	3071.84
Wymondley	1036.90	1209.72	1382.53	1555.35	1900.98	2246.62	2592.25	3110.70

### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 The functions of the Council Tax Setting Committee are to set the Council Tax Base and to set the overall level of Council Tax for the following financial year taking into account the precepts of all Major and Local Precepting Authorities.
- 3.2 The level of Council Tax Requirement has been considered necessary to meet the budgeting needs of the Council for 2015/16.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Options for the appropriate level of Council Tax were considered by Members at Full Council.

### **5. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS**

- 5.1 Consultation on the 2015/16 budget proposals has taken place with all Members throughout the Corporate Business Planning process.

### **6. FORWARD PLAN**

- 6.1 This report contains a recommendation on a key decision that was referred to in the Forward Plan on 1 August 2014.

### **7. BACKGROUND**

- 7.1 At its meeting on 13 January 2015 the Council Tax Setting Committee calculated the amount 47,371.50 as its council tax base for the year 2015/2016 in accordance with regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulations 1992 (the Regulations).
- 7.2 At its meeting on the 12 February 2015 the Council approved a net budget of £16.060million and a council tax increase of 1.9% for 2015/16. It noted that the total net Parish precept requirement was £966,052. As a result the calculated Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2015/16 (excluding Parish precepts) is £9,853,746 and hence the total Council Tax requirement (including Parish precepts) is £10,819,798.

### **8. ISSUES**

- 8.1 The Local Government Finance Act 1992 sets out the calculations required for the Council Tax Requirement and the overall council tax levels. These calculations have been applied to the precept requirements of the District Council, County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and Town and Parish Councils and the outcome is provided for Members approval in section 2 of this report.
- 8.2 The Council has decided to increase council tax by 1.9%. This is below the referendum threshold of 2% so a local referendum on the council tax level is not required.
- 8.3 The Town and Parish Councils have requested a total overall precept of £1,033,290. This is an increase of £34,050, or 3.4%, on the requested precept for 2014/15. This Council has agreed to pass a grant of £67,238 to the Town and Parish Councils to help mitigate the impact of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

This means the actual amount of precept charged to taxpayers for Town and Parish Councils for 2015/16 is £966,052, an increase of 5%.

- 8.4 Hertfordshire County Council provided notification on the 24 February 2015 of the requested levy on the District of North Hertfordshire for 2015/16 of £54,055,145, which results in a Band D Council Tax of £1,141.09. This represents a 1.99% increase on the 2014/15 rate and is below the referendum threshold of 2% so a local referendum is not required.
- 8.5 The Police and Crime Commissioner provided final notification on the 16 February 2015 of the requested levy on the District of North Hertfordshire for 2015/16 of £7,002,455, which results in a Band D Council Tax of £147.82. This is the same Band D Council Tax rate as 2014/15 and is below the referendum threshold of 2% so a local referendum is not required.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The provision for the Authority to levy and collect a Council tax is provided in section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (Aggregating Billing Authority and Preceptors Council Tax Charges).
- 9.2 The principles for Referendums relating to Council Tax increases was published by the Government on the 3 February 2015.
- 9.3 For 2015/16 the relevant basic amount of council tax is deemed to be excessive if the authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for 2015/16 is 2%, or more than 2%, greater than its relevant basic amount of council tax for 2014/15.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The approval of the Council Tax resolution will authorise the council tax billing of the residents of North Hertfordshire for financial year 2015/16. The District precept to be collected is £9,853,746.
- 10.2 Council Tax is a key funding stream for the Council which enables the provision of services to residents.

## **11. RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The risk of non-collection of council tax is monitored in the Collection Fund. The tax base calculations have assumed a non-collection rate of 1%.

## **12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The Equality Act 2010 came into force on the 1 October 2010, a major piece of legislation. The Act also created a new Public Sector Equality Duty, which came into force on the 5 April 2011. There is a General duty, described in 12.2, that public bodies must meet, underpinned by more specific duties which are designed to help meet them.
- 12.2 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of its functions, give **due regard** to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.3 The review and setting of Council Tax is a statutory responsibility of this Council and thus by setting the level of council tax and any rise, it must show that it is mindful of the impact this may have for individual residents' ability to pay against

the need of the council to have sufficient base budget to deliver key services for those same residents. The recommendation to pass on a grant of just over £67,238 to the district's town and parish councils to mitigate the impact of Council Tax Reduction Scheme reflects some of the considerations made in reaching this balance.

### **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 As the recommendations made in this report do not constitute a public service contract, the measurement of 'social value' as required by the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 need not be applied, although equalities implications and opportunities are identified in the relevant section at Paragraph 12.

### **14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 14.1 There are no direct human resource implications.

### **15. APPENDICES**

- 15.1 Appendix A - Guide to the Council Tax Resolution.

### **16. CONTACT OFFICERS**

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### **17. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 17.1 2015/16 Budget Report considered by Full Council on the 12 February 2015.

### GUIDE TO THE 2015/2016 COUNCIL TAX RESOLUTION

#### **Recommendation 2.1**

This concerns the approval of the contents of the 2015/2016 Estimates book figures.

#### **Recommendation 2.2**

These are the Council Tax Base figures for 2015/2016 approved by the Council Tax Setting Committee on 13 January 2015 with details for those Parishes which levy a precept.

#### **Recommendation 2.3**

- (a) Is Gross Expenditure on District Council services + Parish Precepts - the proposed reduction in balances during 2015/2016.
- (b) Is Gross Income on District Council services, including Revenue Support Grant and share of National Non-Domestic Rates.
- (c) Is (a) - (b) [Gross District Council precept including Parish precepts]
- (d) Is (c) divided by the tax base i.e. the net District + Parish Charge.
- (e) Is the total of Parish Precepts
- (f) Is (d) - [(e) divided by the tax base] i.e. the net District Council charge.
- (g) Is the net District Council charge with the relevant Parish charges added for each area in which there is a Parish precept.
- (h) Is the inclusive District and Parish charge for each property band in those areas which have a Parish precept.

#### **Recommendation 2.4**

Is the addition for the County and Police precepts for each property band.

#### **Recommendation 2.5**

Is the inclusive District, Parish, County and Police charge for each property band.